

also empower them to separate the oil-rich southern territory in Iraq?

As a result:

A. The Iranian regime prevents the establishment of security, Stability and democracy in Iraq and poses an immediate threat to our Country's integrity and liberty. It is the main obstacle to our Independence and the quick departure of the Multi-National Force.

B. Presently, the main dispute is between democracy and Dictatorship. The first and most important political alignment in Iraq is between democratic and patriotic forces with their various inclinations and thoughts on the one hand and affiliates of the Iranian regime on the other.

C. During the elections and formation of the new government of Iraq, an Iraqi alternative was formed against the option presented by Iran's ruling mullahs, thus providing an encouraging prospect for the country.

D. In this geopolitical situation and in this juncture of History, democracy in Iraq and democracy in Iran are interdependent, Guaranteeing each other's survival.

E. The solution and the only encouraging prospect for Neutralizing these threats come through eviction of the Iranian regime from Iraq and recognition of the status of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, which is the principal bulwark against the Iranian regime's interventions. Similarly, the MEK's disarmament upset the strategic balance in this sensitive region of the world in favor of the Iranian regime.

The Iranian regime, however, launched an astounding demonizing and Disinformation campaign against the MEK. Iran's agents in the Interior Ministry kidnapped MEK members while others discontinued the government's allocation of food rations, medicine and fuel for residents of Ashraf City contrary to all Islamic and Iraqi traditions. Through the Iraqi National Security Advisor, the government announced that the MEK "may not even use their allocation of food." (November 18, 2005)

The Iranian regime's fingerprints are evident in paragraph C of Article 21 of the Constitution. Contrary to all international laws on Asylum, this paragraph disentitles the accused of the right to asylum merely based on the unverified charge of terrorism.

Repeated calls by the Iranian regime and its operatives in Iraq for Retribution of the MEK and confiscation of their property (ex. *Asshahed* weekly, April 4, 2005), the Iranian embassy's advertisements in the Iraqi press demanding "retribution of members of this organization as a more important opening for democracy in Iraq", setting their "prosecution" or at least "expulsion" as a "test" for the government of Iraq (*Badr* weekly, September 5 and November 27, 2005) and urging their referral to the "Criminal Court" (*Asshahed* weekly, January 15, 2006) are the most obvious signs of collusion with the Iranian regime.

Having investigated the MEK's 20-year residence in Iraq and stressing their readiness to defend the rights of the MEK in any court of law, over 12,000 Iraqi jurists declared in January 2006, "The MEK has never interfered in Iraq's internal affairs and the claim that the Organization participated in the suppression of the Kurds or Shiites is a sheer lie fabricated by the Iranian regime to tarnish the image of its opposition and alternative."

We urge the following:

1. Agreement of the government of Iraq with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran and the coalition of National Council of Resistance of Iran on a worthwhile legal and political status for them in Iraq;

2. Acknowledgment of MEK members' right to political asylum in Iraq and ensur-

ing respect for their right to own their places and Properties;

3. Modification of article 21C of the Constitution in the Course of reviewing this clause, so that the Iranian regime would not be able to manipulate it against its opposition;

4. Commitment of the government of Iraq to international laws, conventions and agreements on the status of the MEK in Iraq. Particularly with regards to the principle of "non-refoulement" in relocating people from one country to another as verified by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) in the case of the MEK;

5. Coordinated measures by the government of Iraq and the MNF-I to secure the release of the two abducted MEK members.

We declare that:

The terrorist designation of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, 120,000 of whose members and sympathizers have been murdered by the Iranian regime and is the prime victim of state-sponsored terrorism is neither legitimate nor credible and should not be regarded as a basis for relations with this organization.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 921, a resolution reaffirming this Chamber's steadfast support for the State of Israel and condemning Hamas and Hezbollah for engaging in unprovoked and reprehensible armed attacks against Israel on undisputed Israeli territory, among other provisions.

On June 16, 2000, Israel unilaterally withdrew its troops from areas in Southern Lebanon. It was a monumental stride in the long and difficult march toward Middle East peace, one that lent if only fleeting promise for a cessation of violence along the Lebanon-Israel border. The idea was simple: Israel would end an occupation long cited as a serious grievance by Israel's foes, and those foes, denied that grievance, would end attacks on Israel. Any further attacks on Israel from formerly occupied areas would invite a robust military response. That equation for peace, however, was quickly undone.

After the withdrawal, Hezbollah and other belligerents boasted not of a promise of peace, but of defeating the Israeli military and forcing it into retreat. Rather than planning for peace and building a strong civil society in Southern Lebanon, Hezbollah created a sophisticated military infrastructure and denied control of the region to the democratically elected Lebanese Government.

One week ago, Hezbollah, following a similar Hamas kidnapping in June, attacked an Israeli military outpost in undisputed Israeli territory, killing three soldiers and taking two hostages. Since then, Hezbollah has continued attacks on Israel by firing deadly rockets into Israeli urban centers like Haifa. Those rockets, whose warheads are often packed with ball bearings that turn into molten shrapnel upon explosion, are meant to kill and maim indiscriminately.

No country in the world would tolerate such vicious attacks upon its homeland nor threats to its sovereignty without responding and acting to ensure its longer-term security. If we support the Israeli State's right to exist, then we cannot make Israel an exception among nations. Israel must possess the right to defend itself.

Lastly, even as this war rages, I believe it is important to work steadfastly toward peace, because there can be no military solution to this conflict. As it combats Hezbollah, I urge Israel to take measures to limit casualties among the civilian population and to not irrevocably undermine Lebanon's young government, which was the product of the inspiring cedar revolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES AT NASA'S MICHoud ASSEMBLY FACILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, today I offer House Resolution 892, to give honor and thanks to those who braved Hurricane Katrina's fury in service to their country. As we approach the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I would like to recognize the men and women who stayed behind to protect NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in eastern New Orleans. The "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" was comprised of 38 Lockheed and NASA employees who risked their lives to protect the facility that produces the Space Shuttle external fuel tank, a vital component of the Shuttle program. Were it not for their efforts, the Shuttle program could have been grounded for years. In fact, if Michoud had been destroyed by Katrina, the U.S. would not be able to fulfill its commitment to its international partners, as there would have been no way for the U.S. to ferry vital supplies to equip the International Space Station. The "Ride-Out Team" volunteered to stay and protect valuable space flight hardware critical not only to NASA's Space Shuttle Program, but to the future of human space exploration. The Michoud facility is a vital component of America's Vision for Space Exploration, since derivatives of the external tank are part of the design for the next generation space craft.

As hurricane winds exceeded 130 mph and storm surge topped the 19 ft. levees surrounding the facility, the team worked tirelessly manning the pumping station and generators. After all was said and done, those dedicated individuals pumped more than 1 billion gallons of water out of the facility. Because of their efforts, operations at Michoud resumed mere weeks after Katrina's landfill.

Many of the "Ride-Out Team" lost everything they owned to the storm and many didn't know what had happened to their families until days after the storm had passed. They persevered even though all land routes to the facility had been cut off and they had no electricity or water for 21 days.

For their bravery in the face of unbelievable destruction and their unquestionable dedication to the space program, I ask this body to

recognize the members of the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" and commemorate their heroism and selfless contribution to the United States, and enable America to continue to lead the world in space exploration.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER
LLOYD BELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Walter Lloyd Bell, one of the founding fathers of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Known to his family and friends as Lloyd, he passed away on Saturday, July 15, 2006, at the age of 80.

After serving his country in the Navy during World War II, Lloyd returned to Las Vegas and began his career in law enforcement at the Clark County Sheriff's Office. In 1955, at the age of 29, Lloyd became the youngest person to become County Undersheriff. Three years later, he graduated from the FBI Academy, the first member of the department to do so.

Lloyd served on the Nevada Gaming Control Board from 1961 until 1963, when he rejoined the law enforcement community. In 1968, he served on the committee that created the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department by uniting the Las Vegas Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

Lloyd retired from the Sheriff's Office in 1973 and moved on to the private sector, owning 13 shoe stores and a beauty salon. The ambition and dedication that allowed Lloyd to make such a positive impact on the law enforcement community in Las Vegas made him a successful business owner, as well.

Lloyd was a devoted husband and a proud father who enjoyed spending time with his family. He and his wife Patricia raised two daughters, Ashley Bell and Courtney Bell Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lloyd Bell for his accomplishments and his law enforcement service. I thank him for his participation in the ambitious task of creating the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and I applaud his long record of distinguished service. He has truly had a great impact on the safety and well-being of the Las Vegas community, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE NUGENT FAMILY
OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich and Wendy Nugent and their three sons, Ryan, Kyle, and Casey. The Nugent family is being honored by the Disabled American Veterans of Brooksville, Florida for their outstanding service and commitment to the military.

Rich and Wendy Nugent moved from Chicago to Hernando County, Florida in 1984. After receiving their respective degrees in pub-

lic administration and education, rich joined the police force and Wendy joined the Hernando County school system. Both immediately excelled in their careers, yet remained dedicated to their sons' activities and their family values. Rich and Wendy have continued to be very involved in their sons' lives. All parents understand the difficulty in balancing time between work and family and greatly respect and admire Rich and Wendy for their active commitment and devotion to raising their children.

In 2004, Rich and Wendy's oldest son, Ryan, 25, graduated from West Point Army Academy with a degree in Information Systems Engineering. He has since returned from his service in Korea where he served in the 4th Brigade, 73rd Cavalry, and 82nd Airborne. After earning rank as 1st Lieutenant at pre-Ranger school in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Ryan is currently a lieutenant in the Army taking Ranger courses.

Kyle, 19, graduated from Springstead High School in 2005 with a four-year Army ROTC scholarship to the University of Tampa, where he is currently a sophomore studying Criminology. Having served as commander of the Civil Air Patrol and Chief of Operations for the Air Force ROTC, Kyle has decided to continue his involvement with the military in Tampa. Kyle was also the former captain of Springstead's swim and track team, and was named Athlete of the Year prior to his graduation. Kyle's success in athletics has led him to an esteemed position as the coxswain on the four-man and eight-man rowing team at the University of Tampa.

In 2006, Casey, 18, also graduated from Springstead High School where he served as commander of the Color Guard of the Air Force ROTC and Corps Commander. Following in both of his brothers' footsteps, Casey was captain of Springstead's swim team and active in the Civil Air Patrol. He entered West Point Academy on June 26 and I am very proud and honored to have sponsored his nomination.

With their excellent guidance and active involvement in Ryan, Kyle, and Casey's lives, Rich and Wendy Nugent have raised three very well-rounded and mature young men. In today's society, it is a joy to see a family dedicated to such high family values and committed to serving their country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Nugents, as they truly exemplify what our Nation stands for. Rich and Wendy are admirable parents who deserve recognition for demonstrating the importance of American values and service. Ryan, Kyle, and Casey have become extraordinary young men who are proud and eager to "be all they can be." I would like to thank the Nugents for their exceptional dedication to the United States, and I wish Ryan, Kyle, and Casey the best of luck in their future endeavors. I know they will succeed on whatever path they wish to embark upon.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DALE
ANTONICH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Antonich, who is retiring after 33

years of service with the National Park Service.

Dale began his career with the National Park Service as a seasonal park ranger at the Grand Canyon in 1972. For the next four years, Dale held a variety of seasonal laborer, park technician and ranger jobs. His seasonal employment included assignments in the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) and Death Valley National Park. In 1977, he accepted a full-time career position as a park technician at Golden Gate National Park. Dale accepted a promotion in 1981 as a park ranger in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. In 1984, Dale moved from the Santa Monica Mountains NRA to the Grand Teton National Park, accepting a promotion to law enforcement specialist park ranger. In 1986, Dale was selected for the Chief Ranger position at Death Valley National Park. He became the Chief Ranger at Lake Mead NRA in 1991, a position he held for the remainder of his career.

Over the course of his 33 year career, Dale has received a number of awards: the Commendation for a Rescue at Grand Canyon, and the Member of Unit Citation for Rescue at Lake Mead in 1974; he received the Commendation for Rescue performed at Golden Gate National Park in 1978; the Sustained Superior Performance Award in 1984; and the U.S. Department of the Interior Award for Rescue in 1991. Dale also received the highest award that can be bestowed upon a ranger by his peers, the Henry Yount Award. He received this award in 1999 from then-Vice President Al Gore.

Dale has dedicated his professional career to the mission of the National Parks Service. He has committed his life to the resources, park visitors, park staff and our partners. He has provided leadership in the development and management of emerging operations, and the professionalization of ranger positions within the National Park System.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dale Antonich for his years spent the National Park Service. Dale's experience, commitment, contributions and dedication to his job will be surely missed. I wish him the best with his retirement.

PROCTER & GAMBLE'S MEHOOPANY, PENNSYLVANIA PLANT

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very important and significant economic milestone in northeastern Pennsylvania that will be celebrated in August. Procter & Gamble's Mehoopany, Pennsylvania, paper products facility, which has been in operation since 1966, will be commemorating its 40th year with an open house and anniversary ceremonies on August 17, 18 and 19.

The Mehoopany plant is the largest P&G plant in North America. It was the first paper products plant built by Procter & Gamble after the company's acquisition of the Charmin Paper Products Company in 1957. It is one of seven P&G paper products plants in the United States and one of more than 70 plants of all products.